



DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR
FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

December 17, 2001

“As President Bush has asked, we’re all trying to return to our normal lives. And how can you do that? Go shopping. Buy a CD. Eat out once a week. Take a tour of a new museum. Enjoy our ‘Holiday Homecoming.’ Watch the Olympic Torch traverse our city on December 21st.”

The best friend of this city is spending. The best friend of this city is remaining an active part of the cultural fabric in our city.

I wish you happy holidays. We look forward to the successes waiting in 2002.”

Mayor Anthony A. Williams

IN THE NEWS.

• ***The Mather Building Deal? It’s Closed!***

On December 7th, DHCD closed the deal with PN Hoffman and Gilford Construction Corporation to renovate the Mather Building, a building crucial to the resurgence of our downtown.

According to the deal, PN Hoffman and Gilford Construction Corporation will:

- create 40 condominiums on the building’s top nine floors;
- make 30% of the building’s housing units affordable;
- transform the first floor into an art gallery, dance studio, meeting space, individual workstations, and small auditorium;
- and lease the arts space for below market rate to the Cultural Development Corporation, which has made a preliminary agreement for a ten-year lease.

The total cost of the project is \$14.1 million, and the developers expect it to bring the District \$817,000 in annual tax revenue.

“We’re taking another step towards turning our downtown into a living, breathing neighborhood—a neighborhood where people work, shop and live; a neighborhood known for its entertainment venues, cultural attractions and office buildings; a neighborhood that’s connected to our neighborhoods throughout the city,” Mayor Williams said.

The 78,400 square foot building is located at 916-918 G Street, NW and is within the Downtown Historic District. It is one of the few District government-owned properties available for redevelopment in downtown.

NOTABLES AND QUOTABLES.

- ***Local Businesses Like the Bank Deposit Program.*** The Bank Deposit Program is part of Mayor Williams’ ongoing commitment to help our city’s businesses recover from the effects of the September 11th attacks. Currently, the five participating banks have:
 - approved loans totaling approximately \$4 million;
 - have pending loan applications totaling \$2.5 million.

Visit <http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=265&mon=200111> for more details.

- ***We Love Local Businesses!*** And how do we know? Because in FY 2000, The Office of Local Business Development awarded more than **\$311 million** in contract awards and

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purchase orders to our city's businesses. "Our local businesses make up 95% of our business sector. They pump \$250 million annually into our economy. They're the backbone of the District and we're going to support them in every way we can," commented Mayor Williams. Visit <http://olbd.dc.gov/pdf/Contracts.asp> for the complete list.

- ***Drawing Close to a Conclusion on Columbia Heights.*** We began with an RFP for seven parcels in Columbia Heights. We had a vision of a mixed-income, mixed-use community. In came 11 proposals. And now, the decision is soon to be made. Read the *Washington Post's* coverage at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A61804-2001Dec5.html>.
- ***Marc Fischer Said It Best.*** You've heard all the arguments: "We look like a city under siege!" "It's hard to get back to normal when normal is an open White House." "What kind of message are we sending to the world when terror shuts down Washington, D.C.?" But Marc Fischer said it best. Read his *Post Metro Column* at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64947-2001Dec5.html>.

AND DON'T FORGET...

- ***Bye-Bye DOES. Sort of...***
On **Thursday, December 20th @ 11am**, Mayor Williams and Charles Overby, Chairman and CEO of the Freedom Forum will begin the demolition of the former DOES Building—and begin construction of the new Freedom Forum/Newseum building, a 555,000-square-foot complex with the Newseum, the Freedom Forum's headquarters and international conference center, restaurant and retail facilities, and housing units. The project should be completed in 2005. Where to go? **Corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 6th St., N.W.** Bring a hard hat.
- ***Want to Improve Business in DC? Then We Have an Idea for You...***
Since April 2000, nearly 550 CEOs, managing partners and District branch office managers have been visited by Outreach Specialists from *DC Business Connections*, the Mayor's corporate outreach and business retention program. Through *Connections*, business leaders can share views on what's working and what's not in District services and support for businesses. If you represent a non-retail corporation (of 6 or more employees) or are in a high-tech business (of any size), schedule your meeting online at www.dcconnects.org or call DC Marketing Center's Lynn Palmer at **(202) 237-6983**.
- ***Arts Across the City***
Mayor Williams and the District's Arts Commission are celebrating the Washington's arts community by proclaiming "Arts Week" from **December 17th-22nd**. The Mayor will open the week by announcing more than \$1.3 million in awards to fund Washington artists and community-based arts organizations. Free events throughout the week include the 17th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards ceremony on Monday, December 17, and live, daily music performances at malls and public spaces. Visit <http://dcarts.dc.gov/main.shtm> for more information.
- ***It's Still Holiday Homecoming. You're Still invited! You Should Still Bring a Friend...***
The Wilson Building may be lit but that doesn't mean the glow of "Holiday Homecoming" is fading away. From art exhibits for adults to craft fairs for kids, there are over 400 attractions throughout the city to see, taste, touch, smell and enjoy! For more information, visit www.dcinspires.com

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